

**2005 and 2006 Local Medicare Advantage Organization (MAO) and MA-PD  
Applications Timeline**

February 15, 2005	Receipt of Initial Applications for 2005
March 1, 2005	Receipt of Service Area Expansion Applications for 2005
March 23, 2005	Receipt of Initial and Service Area Applications for 2006
April 22, 2005	Receipt of drug plan formularies
April 22, 2005	CMS releases Memo and Timeline to local MA industry and local MA and MA-PD Plan Applicants
Mid-May, 2005	CMS sends “Status of Application” letters to individual local MA applicants for 2005. Letters of intent to deny as well as conditional approval letters will list application deficiencies. Only applicants whose deficiencies are limited to licensure and/or provider network will receive a letter of conditional approval. The letter of intent to deny will indicate: that the applicant has 10 days to cure the deficiencies, that the applicant will receive an additional notice either of denial or conditional approval after CMS review of any additional information, and the steps to seeking appeals rights or withdrawing the application. The conditional approval letters will indicate steps that remain to be completed by the MAO before a contract can be completed, such as bid submission and successful negotiation of pricing, benefits, and cost-sharing.
Early June, 2005	CMS sends “Status of Application” letters to individual local MA applicants for 2006. Letters of intent to deny as well as conditional approval letters will list application deficiencies. Only applicants whose deficiencies are limited to licensure and/or provider network will receive a letter of conditional approval. The letter of intent to deny will indicate that the applicant has 10 days to cure the deficiencies, and steps to seeking appeals rights. The conditional approval letters will indicate steps that remain to be completed by the MAO before a contract can be completed, such as bid submission and successful negotiation of pricing, benefits, and cost-sharing.
June 6, 2005	All plan bids are due.
June 15, 2005	Applicants for 2005 must submit any outstanding information to cure deficiencies in state licensure or network adequacy.
July 15, 2005	Applicants for 2006 must submit any outstanding application information to cure deficiencies in licensure or network adequacy (except for pharmacy access).
August 1, 2005	All MA-PD applicants must submit their pharmacy access analyses.

August 26, 2005	Deadline for CMS' review of State licensure and provider/pharmacy networks.  CMS begins to issue letters of intent to deny for insufficient evidence of State licensure or provider/pharmacy access. Applicants may withdraw all or a portion of their application.
September 1, 2005	CMS begins to sign contracts for successful applicants who also have approved bids.
Mid-September 2005	Deadline for CMS to sign contracts